

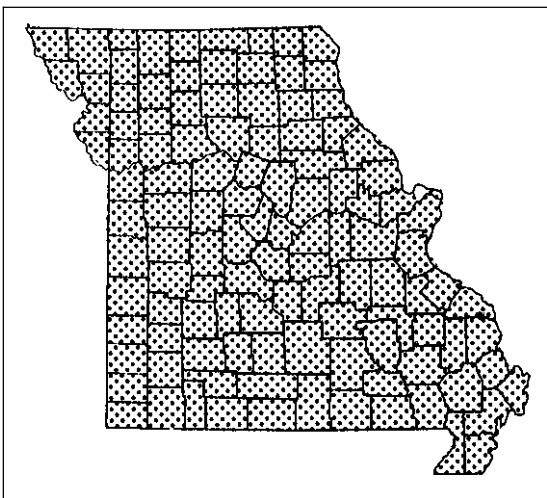
## Mulberry

*Morus* spp.

Several species of mulberry are combined here. Red mulberry (*M. rubra* L.) is common throughout the state. It is a scattered tree associated with red and white oaks, elm, hackberry, sugar maple and black walnut, growing on rich, well-drained soils. White mulberry (*M. alba* L.) was not native Missouri, but is common in some areas today because of ornamental plantings. It is very similar to red mulberry. Paper mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera* (L.) Vent.) is an ornamental that has escaped cultivation in southeast Missouri and is fairly common in the Bootheel.

The sapwood of red mulberry is yellowish or creamy colored. The heartwood is orange-yellow to golden brown, turning russet-brown after exposure to air and sunlight. The bark is dark or chocolate brown, fissured and scaly. The wood is hard, usually straight-grained and very durable. The growth rings are distinct and the wood is ring porous. Little commercial use is made of this wood since merchantable-sized logs are scarce. The lumber machines well and is fairly stable after drying, but it has a fairly coarse texture.

These species are used locally for such products as fence posts and are planted as ornamentals. The fruit, while very attractive to birds, is messy and has a purple dye that is hard to remove. While difficult to obtain, mulberry is an attractive wood that can be made into many craft items in home workshops. It takes a high polish and would make attractive furniture items, if available. It has been used for wall paneling.



Szopa

